

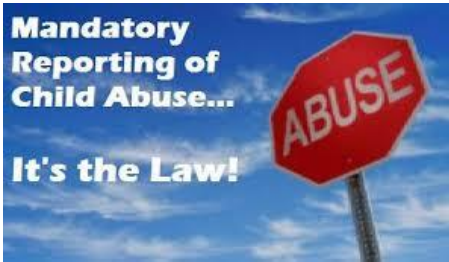
Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

San Diego Child Welfare Services

SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CHILD ABUSE REPORTING
TELEPHONE NUMBERS

858-560-2191 800-344-6000

If you believe the Child is in
Immediate Danger call 911.



Obligations of Mandated Reporters

A list of persons whose profession
qualifies them as “mandated
reporters” of child abuse or
neglect is found in California Penal
Code Section 11165.7.

- It includes all school/district
employees, administrators,
and athletic coaches.

- All persons hired into positions
included on the list of
mandated reporters are
required, upon employment, to
be provided with a statement,
informing them that they are a
mandated reporter and their
obligations to report suspected
cases of abuse and neglect
pursuant to California Penal
Code Section 11166.

All persons who are mandated
reporters are required, by law, to
report all known or suspected
cases of child abuse or neglect.

It is not the job of the mandated
reporter to determine whether the
allegations are valid. If child abuse
or neglect is reasonably suspected
or if a pupil shares information
with a mandated reporter leading
him/her to believe abuse or
neglect has taken place, the report
must be made.

No supervisor or administrator
can impede or inhibit a report or
subject the reporting person to
any sanction.

SDPD DIVISIONS

For general information please contact
your local police substation.

Central Division	(619) 744-9500
Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Mid-City Division	(619) 516-3000
Northeastern Division	(858) 538-8000
Northern Division	(858) 552-1700
Northwestern Division	(858) 523-7000
Southeastern Division	(619) 527-3500
Southern Division	(619) 424-0400
Western Division	(619) 692-4800

May 15, 2018



Child Abuse



**SAN DIEGO POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

**This brochure contains
important information
regarding Child Abuse.**

Contents

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Child Neglect
- Reporting

Every year more than 3 million
reports of child abuse are made in
the United States.

CHILD ABUSE IS:

Physical abuse of a child is when a parent or caregiver causes any non-accidental physical injury to a child. There are many signs of physical abuse. If you see any of the following signs, please get help right away.

28.3% of adults report being physically abused as a child. You should **call for help** if your partner exhibits any of the following behaviors.

Sexual abuse occurs when an adult uses a child for sexual purposes or involves a child in sexual acts. It also includes when a child who is older or more powerful uses another child for sexual gratification or excitement.

When a parent or caregiver harms a child's mental and social development, or causes severe emotional harm, it is considered **emotional abuse**. While a single incident may be abuse, most often emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that causes damage over time.

10.6% of adults report being emotionally abused as a child.

Child neglect is when a parent or caregiver does not give the care, supervision, affection and support needed for a child's health, safety and well-being. Child neglect includes:

- Physical neglect and inadequate supervision
- Emotional neglect
- Medical neglect
- Educational neglect



Warning Signs of Physical Abuse in Children

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.
- Is always watchful and "on alert" as if waiting for something bad to happen.
- Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse in Children

- Trouble walking or sitting.
- Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to his or her age, or even seductive behavior.
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason.
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities.
- A sexually transmitted disease (STD) or pregnancy, especially under the age of fourteen.
- Runs away from home.

Warning Signs of Emotional Abuse in Children

- Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong.
- Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive).
- Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver.
- Acts either inappropriately adult-like (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums).

Warning Signs of Neglect in Children

- Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather.
- Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor).
- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries.
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments.
- Is frequently late or missing from school.

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Community members have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. While not mandated by law to do so, if child abuse or neglect is suspected, a report should be filed with qualified and experienced agencies that will investigate the situation.

Parents and guardians of pupils have the right to file a complaint against anyone they suspect has engaged in abuse or neglect of a child.